



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 24, 2010

Mr. Rick Greenwood
Southern California Edison
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, #3A
Rosemead, CA 91770

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS CERTIFICATION FOR THE SCE HONEYCRISP DSP PROJECT, RIVERSIDE COUNTY (ACOE REFERENCE NO. NOT AVAILABLE), (RWQCB REFERENCE NO. 332010-08)

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

On February 23, 2010, this office received an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Standards Certification (Certification) for the construction and installation of five (5) new vaults containing underground electrical circuits along the San Timoteo Canyon Road right-of-way, in the areas of Beaumont and Calimesa in unincorporated and incorporated portions of Riverside County. This letter responds to your request for certification that the proposed project, described in your application and summarized below, will comply with State water quality standards outlined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin (1995) and subsequent Basin Plan amendments:

Project Description:

Install two new overhead transmission poles and five subterranean vaults, with each vault housing 12kV electrical circuits. Install two underground 12kV distribution conduit systems to connect the five vaults. Install all vaults along the northern shoulder of San Timoteo Canyon Road. Each vault will have an excavation footprint of 10' x 22' and a permanent surface footprint of 5' x 6'. Excavate two separate conduit system trenches, each measuring 450-feet long by 4' wide, extending to a terminal manhole measuring 6' x 12' x 7'. All new poles and vaults will be readily accessed by existing roads. The work will take place within various Sections of Township 2 South, Range 2 West, of the U.S. Geological Survey El Casco, *California*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (33 deg. 57 min. 01 sec. N/ -117 deg. 04 min. 25 sec. W).

California Environmental Protection Agency



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Receiving water: San Timoteo Creek, tributary of the Santa Ana River

Fill area: 0.01 acre of permanent impact to wetland and 0.11 acre of temporary impact to wetland. 0.1 acre of temporary impact to streambed (2,043 linear feet).

Dredge volume: 44 cubic yards

Federal permit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit No. 12.

Should the proposed project impact state- or federally-listed endangered species or their habitat, implementation of measures identified in consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game will ensure those impacts are mitigated to an acceptable level. Appropriate Best Management Practices will be implemented to reduce construction-related impacts to Waters of the State. This project is less than one acre. Therefore, coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, is not required.

You have submitted an application for coverage under nationwide permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You have applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Southern California Edison and the Regional Board have determined that the project is exempt from provisions of CEQA under Guidelines Section 15301, as this project is a minor alteration of an existing facility that involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The project is for utility line activities, including construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines and preconstruction contours remain unchanged.

This 401 Certification is contingent upon the execution of the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant must comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act section 404 permits.
- 2) The project proponent shall utilize Best Management Practices during project construction to minimize the dispersion of silt and debris to drainage systems or other waters of the state and of the United States.
- 3) In the event that the work results in grading of the embankment of San Timoteo Canyon Road, BMPs to prevent erosion must include seeding of the graded area, using an appropriate native plant mix.
- 4) This Water Quality Certification is subject to the acquisition of all local, regional, state, and federal permits and approvals as required by law. Failure



to meet any conditions contained herein or any of the conditions contained in any other permit or approval issued by the State of California or any subdivision thereof may result in the revocation of this Certification and appropriate enforcement action.

- 5) Motorized equipment shall not be maintained or parked within or near any stream crossing, channel or lake margin in such a manner that petroleum products or other pollutants from the equipment may enter these areas under any flow conditions. Vehicles shall not be driven or equipment operated in waters of the state on-site, except as necessary to complete the proposed project.
- 6) Substances resulting from project-related activities that could be harmful to aquatic life, including, but not limited to, petroleum lubricants and fuels, cured and uncured cements, epoxies, paints and other protective coating materials, portland cement concrete or asphalt concrete, and washings and cuttings thereof, and debris from metal welding or metal cutting operations, shall not be discharged to soils or waters of the state.
- 7) Adherence to the requirements of this certification does not relieve the proponents of this project from compliance with requirements of local, county, other state, and federal agencies.

Under California Water Code, Section 1058, and Pursuant to 23 CCR §3860, the following shall be included as conditions of all water quality certification actions:

- (a) Every certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Section §13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with Section 3867) of this Chapter.
- (b) Certification is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a FERC license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to Subsection §3855(b) of this Chapter and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- (c) Certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under this Chapter and owed by the applicant.

If the above stated conditions are changed, any of the criteria or conditions as previously described are not met, or new information becomes available that indicates a water



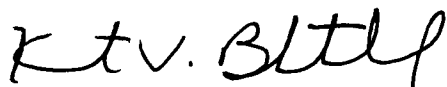
quality problem, the Regional Board may require the applicant to submit a report of waste discharge and obtain Waste Discharge Requirements.

In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this certification, the holder of any permit or license subject to this certification shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under state law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act, the applicability of any state law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this certification. Violations of the conditions of this certification may subject the applicant to civil liability pursuant to Water Code section 13350 and/or 13385.

This letter constitutes a Water Quality Standards Certification issued pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. I hereby issue an order certifying that any discharge from the referenced project will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301 (Effluent Limitations), 302 (Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations), 303 (Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans), 306 (National Standards of Performance), and 307 (Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards) of the Clean Water Act, and with other applicable requirements of State law. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ (Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ), "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredge and Fill Discharges That Have Received Water Quality Certification" which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Standards Certification. Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ is available at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0017.pdf

Should there be any questions, please contact Marc Brown at (951) 321-4584, or Mark Adelson at (951) 782-3234.

Sincerely,



Kurt Berchtold
Executive Officer

cc (via electronic mail):

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Office – Mark Durham
Department of Fish and Game – Michael Flores
State Water Resources Control Board, Office of Chief Counsel – David Rice
State Water Resources Control Board, DWQ – Water Quality Certification Unit
U.S. EPA – Supervisor of the Wetlands Regulatory Office WTR- 8

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